

Attorney Docket: BAUTISTA/GODELL

DEVICE FOR RECEIVING SALIVA EXPECTORATED BY A
TOBACCO CHEWER

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TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a device utilized to receive
10 and store saliva expectorated by an individual chewing tobacco.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Chewing tobacco is a relatively common activity and has
been for decades. A by-product of tobacco chewing is the
15 formation of saliva incorporating at least some of the masticated
tobacco product. Swallowing such saliva can make one ill so it
is a common practice to spit the saliva into a container.
Cuspidors or spittoons were commonly found in public places of
business and even residences for this purpose in years past.
20 Today however, a tobacco chewer must find his own way to remedy
the problem.

Many chewers are in the habit of employing beverage
cans for such purpose. There are, however, drawbacks to this

approach. Not only does the typical beverage can have a relatively small opening, making it difficult to avoid making a mess on the top of the can, a beverage can, when on a floor or other support between uses by the tobacco chewer, can readily be 5 knocked over, causing saliva in the can or saliva on the can to spill.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

The present invention provides a device enabling a beverage can to be utilized in a more efficient and expeditious 10 manner to act as a repository for saliva expectorated by a tobacco chewing individual. Utilizing the arrangement of this invention, virtually all of the saliva is directed to the interior of the can and does not rest on the top of the can. In addition, the device disclosed and claimed herein resists 15 spilling from the beverage can when it is tipped over.

The device is utilized in combination with a beverage container such as a soda or beer can of conventional construction and including a side wall having an upper rim, a top attached to the upper rim and a bottom. The top, the side wall and the 20 bottom define a beverage container interior and the top defines an opening disposed inwardly of the rim and communicating with the beverage container interior.

The device is for receiving saliva expectorated by a tobacco chewing individual and directing the saliva into the

beverage container interior.

The device includes an open topped receptacle having an outlet and a connector releasably connecting the receptacle to the beverage container with the outlet in liquid flow communication with the opening defined by the top of the beverage container whereby saliva in the receptacle will drain under the influence of gravity into the beverage container interior.

5 The device additionally includes a drain conduit attached to the open topped receptacle and extending downwardly therefrom. The drain conduit extends into the beverage container 10 interior and defines a liquid flow passageway in liquid flow communication with the outlet of the receptacle.

15 Other features, advantages and objects of the present invention will become apparent with reference to the following description and accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view illustrating a preferred embodiment of the device constructed in accordance with the teachings of the present invention releasably connected to the 20 top of a beverage container in the form of a beverage can;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view illustrating the device prior to its application to the beverage can;

Fig. 3 is a bottom, perspective view of the device;

Fig. 4 is a side, elevational view of the device;

Fig. 5 is a frontal, elevational view of the device;
Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line
6-6 in Fig. 1;

5 Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 6, but illustrating
the beverage container and device in an upside down condition;

Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 6, but showing the
beverage container lying on its side with the drain conduit of
the device inclined upwardly;

10 Fig. 9 is a view similar to Fig. 8, but showing the
beverage container lying on its side and the drain conduit
inclined downwardly; and

Fig. 10 is an enlarged, cross-sectional view taken
along the line 10-10 in Fig. 6.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

15 Referring now to the drawings, a conventional beverage
container in the form of a "pop top" beverage can 10 is
illustrated.

20 The beverage can includes a side wall 14 having an
upper rim 16, a bottom 18 and a top 20. The top, the side wall
and the bottom define a beverage container interior. The top
defines an opening 22 which communicates with the beverage
container interior and which was formed prior to consumption of
the beverage in the container by removal of the "pop top" closure
of well known construction.

The can has a central longitudinal axis A (see Fig. 6) and the opening 22 is off center in the top, located off to one side of the central longitudinal axis A and within the confines of the rim 16. The device 12 is for receiving saliva 5 expectorated by a tobacco chewing individual and for directing the saliva into the interior of the beverage can 10.

The device 12 includes an open topped receptacle 30 having an outlet 32. Surrounding the receptacle is a connector for releasably connecting the receptacle to the beverage 10 container with the outlet 32 in liquid flow communication with the opening 22 whereby saliva in the receptacle will drain under the influence of gravity into the beverage container interior. More particularly, the connector is in the form of an outer sleeve or skirt 34 which surrounds and frictionally engages the rim 16 (as may perhaps best be seen with reference to Fig. 10) 15 when the device is in position on the can. A manually engageable tab 36 projects from the skirt or sleeve 34 to facilitate installation and removal of the device.

The device also includes a drain conduit 40 attached to 20 the receptacle 30 and extending downwardly therefrom. The drain conduit extends into the beverage container interior and defines a liquid flow passageway in communication with the outlet 32 of the receptacle 30. The drain conduit 40 has an open distal end 42 located in the beverage can interior and spaced from the

bottom 18, side wall 14, and top 20. The drain conduit is rigid and defines an acute angle with the top of the beverage container and the receptacle. Saliva engaging the inclined inner wall 44 of receptacle 30 will be directed to the outlet 32 since the wall 5 surface 42 converges at the outlet. From the outlet, the saliva will be directed to the open distal end 42 of the drain conduit and thence flow into the can interior. In the arrangement illustrated, the device 12 is of integral, molded plastic construction, however other construction approaches and materials 10 may be utilized when practicing the teachings of this invention.

It should be noted that when the device is in position in the can, the cross-section of the drain conduit 40 at the location of opening 22 conforms to the shape of that opening. This not only adds to the stability of the device on the can but 15 prevents passage of saliva between the can and the drain conduit in the event the can is tipped over. The open distal end of the inclined drain conduit 40 is at a location in the beverage can interior on a side of the longitudinal central axis A opposed to the side of the longitudinal central axis occupied by opening 22 and outlet 32. This configuration of the drain conduit results 20 in an arrangement which makes the combination of the can and device spill resistant. In Fig. 7, spillage of the contents of

the can is prevented even though the can and the device are upside down. Figs. 8 and 9 show two different orientations in which the can is lying on its side. In neither case does saliva escape from the can interior through the device.